

OPINION 1891

***Crenitis* Bedel, 1881, *Georissus* Latreille, 1809 and *Oosternum* Sharp, 1882 (Insecta, Coleoptera): conserved**

Keywords. Nomenclature: taxonomy; Coleoptera; HYDROPHILIDAE; *Crenitis*; *Georissus*; *Oosternum*.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary powers the following names are hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy:
 - (a) *Fontiscrutor* Pandellé, 1876;
 - (b) *Cathammistes* Illiger, 1807;
 - (c) *Crypteuma* Motschulsky, 1863.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Georissus* Latreille, 1809 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Pimelia pygmaea* Fabricius, 1798 (a junior subjective synonym of *Byrrhus crenulatus* Rossi, 1794);
 - (b) *Oosternum* Sharp, 1882 (gender: neuter), type species by monotypy *Oosternum costatum* Sharp, 1882.
- (3) To the entry for *Crenitis* Bedel, 1881 on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology is hereby added a record of the present ruling, and the entry is hereby emended to read 'gender: feminine'.
- (4) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *crenulatus* Rossi, 1794, as published in the binomen *Byrrhus crenulatus* and as defined by the lectotype designated by Bameul (1991) (senior subjective synonym of *Pimelia pygmaea* Fabricius, 1798, the type species of *Georissus* Latreille, 1809);
 - (b) *costatum* Sharp, 1882, as published in the binomen *Oosternum costatum* (specific name of the type species of *Oosternum* Sharp, 1882).
- (5) The following names are hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Fontiscrutor* Pandellé, 1876, as suppressed in (1)(a) above;
 - (b) *Cathammistes* Illiger, 1807, as suppressed in (1)(b) above;
 - (c) *Crypteuma* Motschulsky, 1863, as suppressed in (1)(c) above;
 - (d) *Georyssus* Stephens, 1828 (a junior objective synonym of *Georissus* Latreille, 1809).

History of Case 2925

An application for the conservation of the names *Crenitis* Bedel, 1881, *Georissus* Latreille, 1809 and *Oosternum* Sharp, 1882 was received from Dr M. Hansen (Zoological Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark) on 14 January 1994. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 53: 99–103 (June 1996). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

A comment from Dr A. Smetana (*Eastern Cereal and Oilseed Research Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada*), published in BZN 53: 278 (December 1996), supported the conservation of all three generic names and the citation of *Crenitis* as feminine.

The name *Crenitis*, and that of its type species *Hydrobius punctatostriatatus* Letzner, 1840, were placed on Official Lists in Opinion 583 (September 1960). However, the senior synonym *Fontiscrutor* Pandellé, 1876 was not then considered.

Proposals for the conservation of each of the names *Crenitis*, *Georissus* and *Oosternum* were offered separately for voting.

Decision of the Commission

On 10 September 1997 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 53: 101–102. At the close of the voting period on 10 December 1997 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 25: Bock, Bouchet (part), Brothers, Cocks, Cogger, Dupuis, Eschmeyer, Heppell, Kabata (part), Kerzhner, Kraus, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Mawatari, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Papp, Patterson, Savage, Schuster, Song, Štys

Negative votes — none.

Ride was on leave of absence.

Bouchet voted for the conservation of *Crenitis* and *Georissus* but against that of *Oosternum*; he commented: 'Thirteen references by eight authors (para. 14 of the application) do not demonstrate usage of the name *Oosternum* outside a restricted taxonomic literature. In the case of this name priority should apply. I vote for the conservation of *Crenitis* to maintain continuity of Opinion 583'. Kabata voted for the conservation of *Crenitis* but against that of *Georissus* and *Oosternum*; he commented: 'In my view this application demonstrates the author's overestimation of the importance of the group with which he works. For each of the three names he anticipates 'considerable confusion' if the senior synonym were to be restored to use. Yet for *Georissus* he is able to mention only 21 references in its 200-year-long history. For *Oosternum* there are only 13. I see little chance of confusion in such a small volume of literature. I vote for the proposal relating to *Crenitis* out of deference for the Commission's earlier ruling'.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

Cathammistes Illiger, 1807, *Magazin für Insektenkunde*, 6: 297.

costatum, *Oosternum*, Sharp, 1882, *Insecta. Coleoptera*. Vol. 1, part 2 in Godman, F.D. & Salvin, O., *Biologia Centrali-Americana*, vol. 16, p. 112.

crenulatus, Byrrhus, Rossi, 1794, *Mantissa Insectorum, exhibens species nuper in Etruria collectas, adjectis faunae Etruscae illustrationibus ac emendationibus*, vol. 2, p. 81.

Crypteuma Motschulsky, 1863, *Bulletin de la Société Impériale des Naturalistes de Moscou*, 36(1): 448.

Fontiscrutor Pandellé, 1876, *Anales de la Sociedad Espanola de Historia Natural*, 5: 58.

Georissus Latreille, 1809, *Genera Crustaceorum et Insectorum, secundum ordinem naturalem in Familias disposita, iconibus exemplisque plurimis explicata*, vol. 4, p. 377.

Georyssus Stephens, 1828, *Illustrations of British Entomology ... Mandibulata*, vol. 2, p. 105.

Oosternum Sharp, 1882, *Insecta. Coleoptera. Vol. 1, part 2 in Godman, F.D. & Salvin, O., Biologia Centrali-Americana, vol. 16, p. 112.*

The following is the reference for the designation of the lectotype of *Byrrhus cremulatus* Rossi, 1794:

Bameul, F. 1991. *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de France*, **95**: 257.